

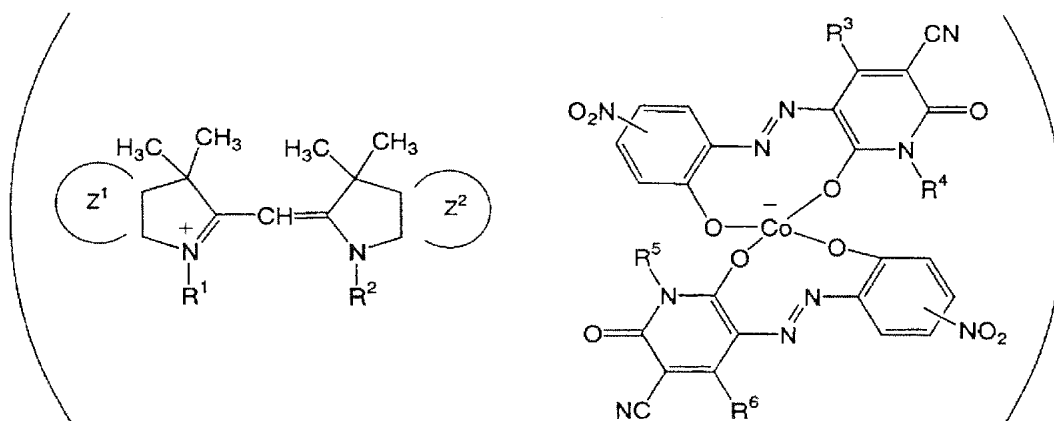
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A cyanine dye which is represented by Formula 1 and which exhibits a major absorption maximum at a wavelength longer than 400 nm in a solution and has a molar absorption coefficient (ϵ) of at least 5×10^4 at the absorption maximum wavelength;

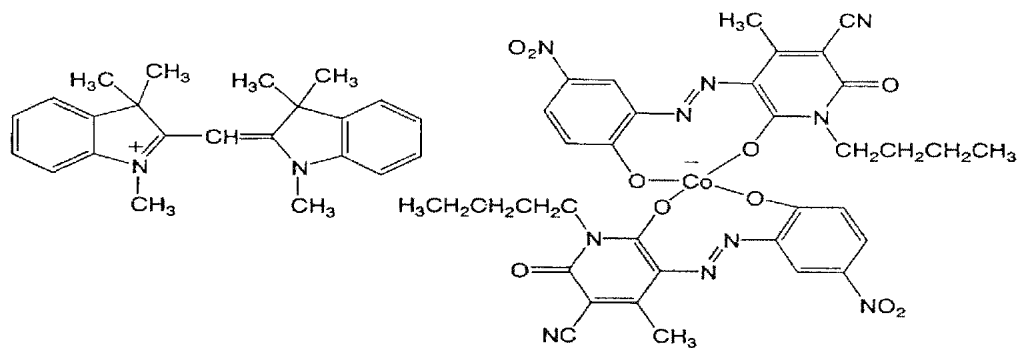
Formula 1:



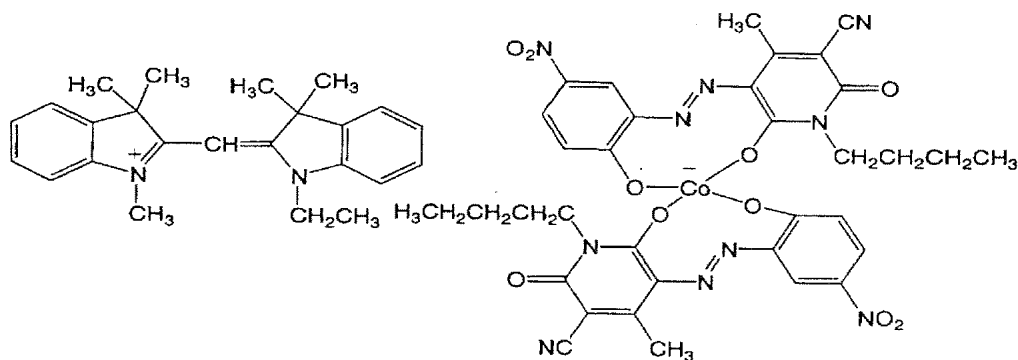
wherein in Formula 1, Z¹ and Z² mean monocyclic, ~~or~~-condensed carbocyclic or heterocyclic aromatic rings which are the same or different from each other, and R¹ to R⁶ independently denote aliphatic hydrocarbon groups which optionally bear a substituent.

2. (Previously Presented) The cyanine dye according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

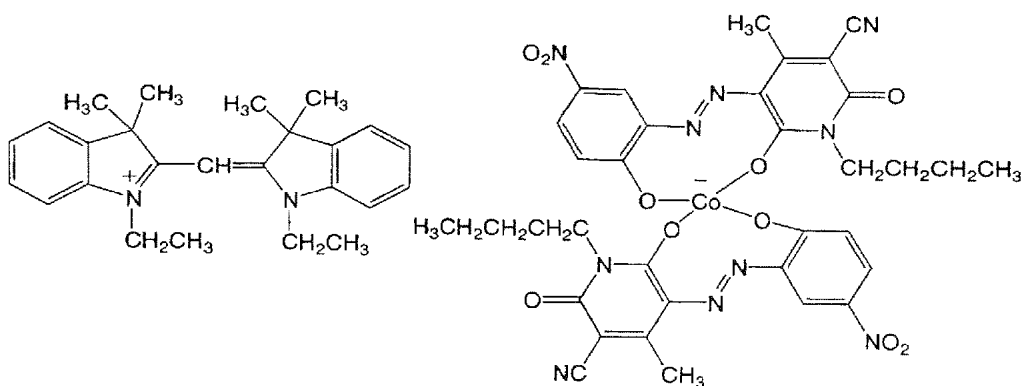
Chemical Formula 1:



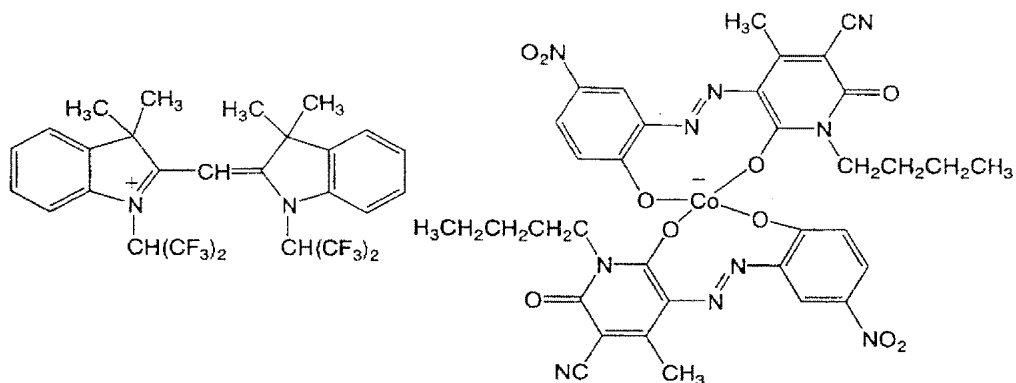
Chemical Formula 2:



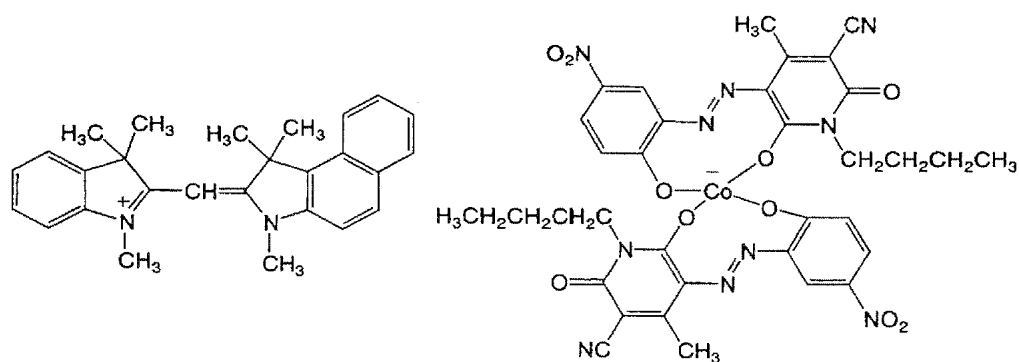
Chemical Formula 3:



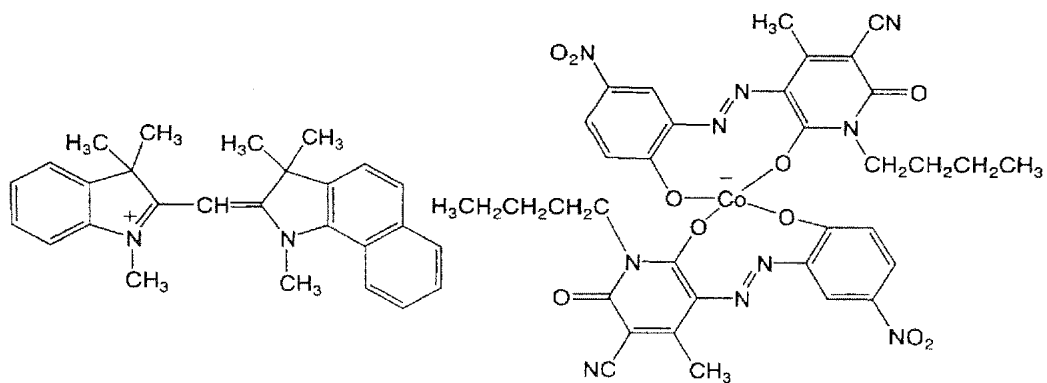
Chemical Formula 4:



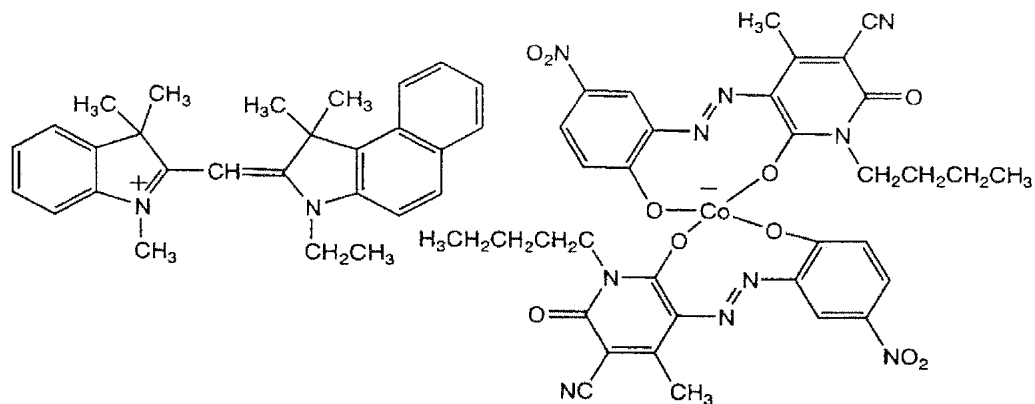
Chemical Formula 5:



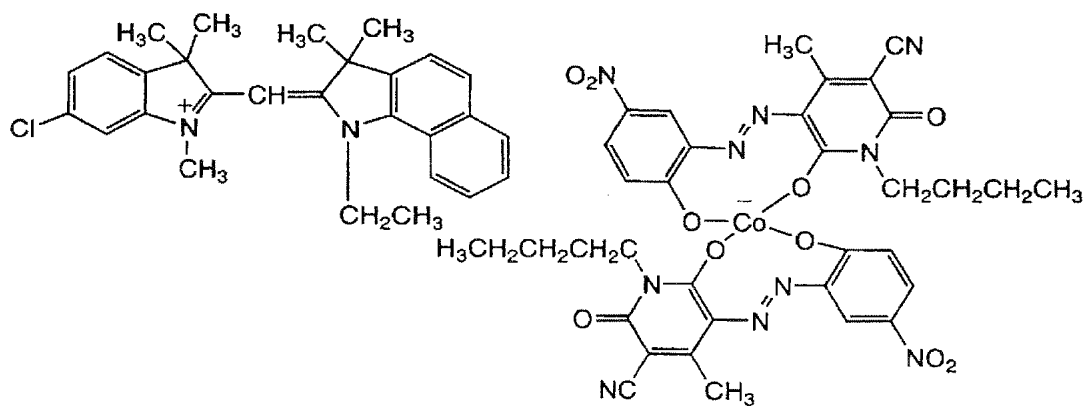
Chemical Formula 6:



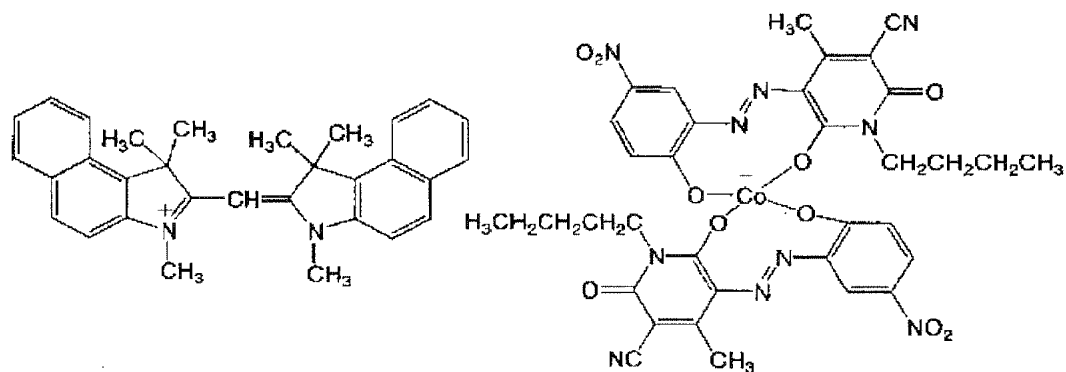
Chemical Formula 7:



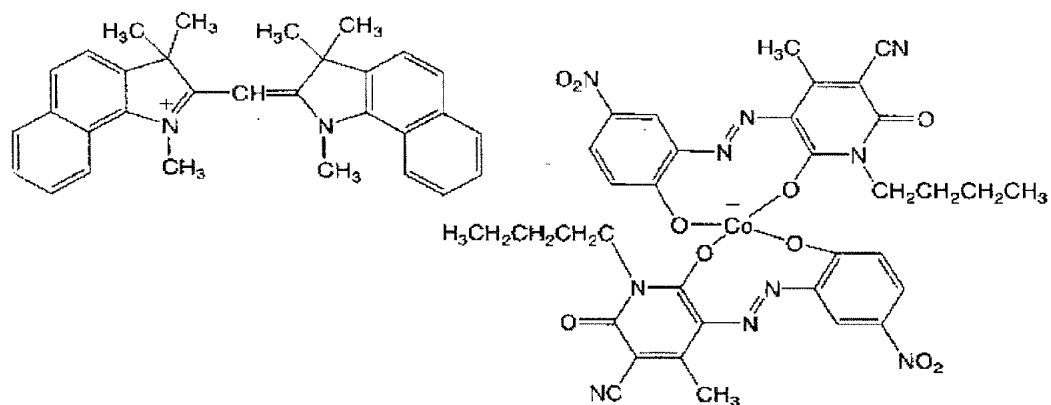
Chemical Formula 8:



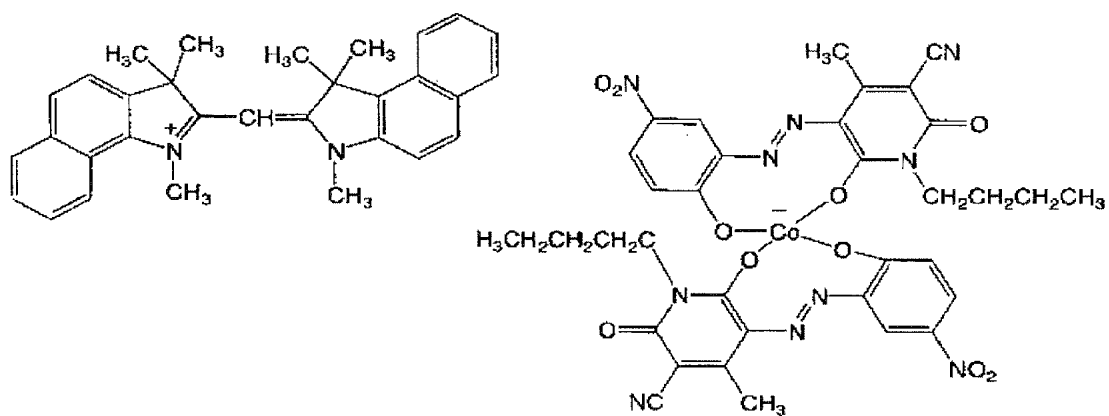
Chemical Formula 9:



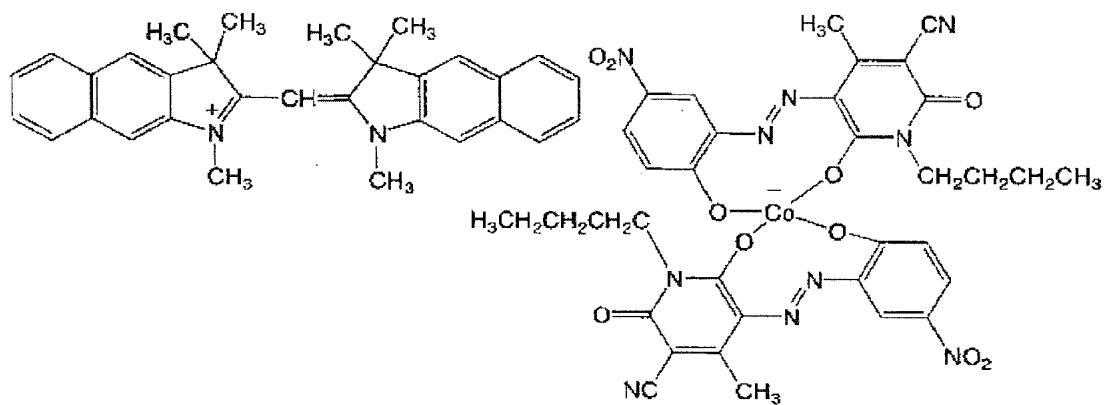
Chemical Formula 10:



Chemical Formula 11:

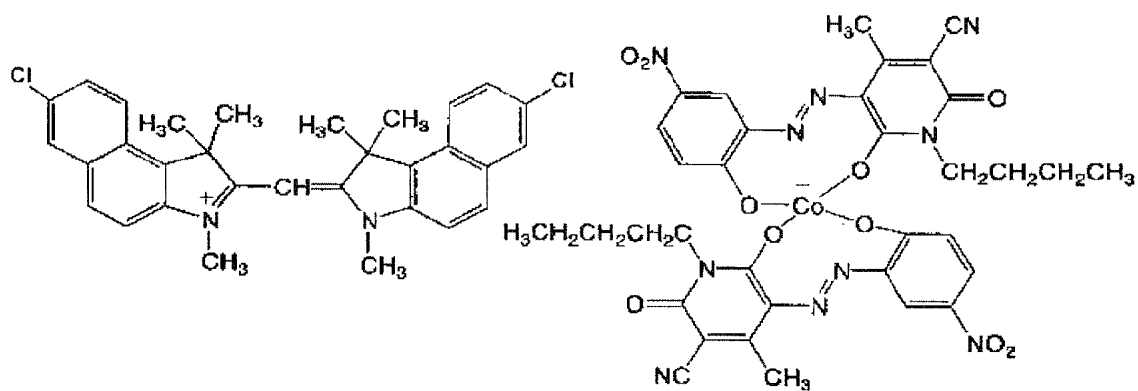


Chemical Formula 12:



and

Chemical Formula 13:



3. (Previously Presented) The cyanine dye according to claim 1
wherein the absorption maximum is about 430 to 550 nm.